

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/911,053

Examiner

James H. Zurita

Applicant(s)

BANSAL ET AL.

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment of 2 October 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 50-52, 55-60, 63-65.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20061204</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment of 2 October 2006 has been entered.

Applicant amended claims 50, 55, 58 and 63 and cancelled claims 53-54, 61-62.

Claims 17-52, 55-60, 63-65 are pending, of which claims 17-49 are withdrawn from prosecution.

Examiner's Amendment

Please cancel claims 17-49 and enter the following amendment to claims 50, 58, 64 and 65. Permission for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone conversation with Attorney Robert Canavan on 4, 5 and 7 December 2006.

50. A method for processing an order placed by an address owner to a merchant for merchandise, comprising the steps of:

receiving from the merchant a query to an online address directory, the directory containing ~~at least one~~ a plurality of addresses ~~address~~ of the address owner and, for each address of the address owner, a date range during which said address is effective, the query containing an address owner ID, and a shipping delivery date;

determining from the address directory, a shipping address of the address owner that is effective on the delivery date;

Art Unit: 3625

encoding said shipping address;

transmitting to the merchant, information for printing said coded shipping address onto a coded-shipping label, the merchant attaching said encoded shipping address label to a package sent to a shipper~~the label readable by a shipper and not by the merchant;~~ and

transmitting to the shipper a second key for decoding the shipping label to obtain the shipping address for the address owner on the delivery date.

58. (currently amended) A machine-readable medium having instructions recorded thereon, such that when the instructions are read and executed by a machine, the machine performs ~~a method for processing an order placed by an address owner to a merchant for merchandise, the method comprising the steps of:~~

receiving from the merchant a query to an online address directory, the directory containing ~~at least one address~~ a plurality of addresses of the address owner and, for each address of the address owner, a date range during which said address is effective, the query containing an address owner ID, and a shipping delivery date;

determining from the address directory, a shipping address of the address owner that is effective on the delivery date; and

encoding said shipping address;

transmitting to the merchant, information for printing said coded shipping address onto a coded-shipping label, the merchant attaching said encoded

Art Unit: 3625

~~shipping address label to a package sent to a shipper, the label readable by a shipper and not by the merchant, the label containing the address of the address owner valid on the delivery date; and~~

transmitting to the shipper a second key for decoding the shipping label to obtain the shipping address for the address owner on the delivery date.

64. (previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 58, wherein ~~the method further comprising~~es the steps of:

transmitting a first key to the merchant to include in the query; and

transmitting a second key to the shipper for decoding the shipping label.

65. (previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 58, wherein ~~the method further comprising~~es the steps of:

by the merchant, affixing the label to the merchandise and forwarding the merchandise to the shipper; and

by the shipper, decoding the shipping label to obtain said shipping address for said address owner on said date of delivery.

Reasons for Allowance

The following are the Examiner's reasons for allowance.

Applicant's comments are commensurate with the disclosures. Prior art does not reasonably teach and suggest

...encoding a shipping address;

...transmitting to the merchant, information for printing said coded shipping address onto a shipping label, the merchant attaching said encoded shipping address label to a package sent to a shipper; and

Art Unit: 3625

...transmitting to the shipper a second key for decoding the shipping label to obtain the shipping address for the address owner on the delivery date.

In addition, the following comments by applicant are appropriate:

...In [Weiss], a shipper transmits the address code to the secure database, and then retrieves the address information. In contrast, the address information in the presently claimed system is included in the shipping label itself, and the shipper retrieves a key to decode that information. The system of the present invention increases the security of the system. To steal an address, an adverse party impersonating the shipper in the presently claimed system would need a physical parcel with the encoded label containing the address information. In contrast, that adverse party attempting to break the Prior art system by impersonating the shipper would need only the code on the package to retrieve the address from the database.

Additional searches show that the prior art of record neither anticipates nor fairly and reasonably teaches the combination of steps of amended claims 50 and 58, including:

...transmitting to the merchant, information for printing said coded shipping address onto a shipping label, the merchant attaching said encoded shipping address label to a package sent to a shipper; and

...transmitting to the shipper a second key for decoding the shipping label to obtain the shipping address for the address owner on the delivery date.

Discussion of Closest Prior Art

The closest US prior art of record is Weiss, US PG-PUB 2002/0178364, previously cited. However, Weiss does not reasonably teach and suggest

...encoding a shipping address;

...transmitting to the merchant, information for printing said coded shipping address onto a shipping label, the merchant attaching said encoded shipping address label to a package sent to a shipper; and

...transmitting to the shipper a second key for decoding the shipping label to obtain the shipping address for the address owner on the delivery date.

The closest non-US prior art of record is Andrews et al., WO 01/69914 A2, published on 20 September 2001, International Filing date of 14 March 2001, and PCT/US01/08547, which discloses managing transactions on the Internet with

Art Unit: 3625

anonymous shipping addresses. However, Andrews does not specifically disclose nor reasonably suggest, among other features,

...receiving from the merchant a query to an online address directory, the directory containing a plurality of addresses of the address owner and, for each address of the address owner, **a date range during which said address is effective**, the query containing an address owner ID, and a shipping delivery date...

The closest non-patent literature is an article by Leslie Walker, Cloaking Devices Designed for Wary Web Shoppers; [FINAL Edition], **The Washington Post**. Washington, D.C.: Oct 19, 2000. pg. E.01, 3 pages, downloaded from the Internet on 20 March 2007. Walker discloses:

...New York-based iPrivacy, which is trying to develop both privacy and security tools and works with the U.S. Postal Service to keep **shipping** information private. IPrivacy will test a system that would allow people to make **anonymous** purchases by creating a coded name, **address** and credit-card number that merchants would receive in place of the real information. In the background, iPrivacy's computers would encrypt and **deliver** the real information to credit-card companies and shippers.

However, Walker does not specifically disclose nor reasonably suggest, among other features,

...receiving from the merchant a query to an online address directory, the directory containing a plurality of addresses of the address owner and, for each address of the address owner, **a date range during which said address is effective**, the query containing an address owner ID, and a shipping delivery date...

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "comments on statements for reasons for allowance."

Art Unit: 3625

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James H. Zurita whose telephone number is 571-272-6766. The examiner can normally be reached on 8a-5pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

James Zurita
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3726
4 December 2006


JAMES ZURITA
PRIMARY EXAMINER